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### DEADLINES:

Letters to the editor, Calendar Notes and Public Notices are due by noon on Fridays. Letters received after noontime on a Friday will be held for the following week.

The Atlantic News welcomes ideas for articles, community news and special stories as well as photography submissions and requests. Call us at (603) 926-4557 if you have questions.

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Digital or scanned photos may be e-mailed to the Atlantic News in JPEG format to: production@AtlanticNews.com.

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— Michael P. Connelly

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## RINEMANIA

# Good people, good causes, and lots of laughs



Jon Rineman Jr.

I'll start off with another cheap plug for my show on Saturday, January 29 at the Winnacunnet Community Auditorium. Joint Relief III is just over one week away! Again, it benefits the Arthritis Foundation, with tickets being \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. Tickets are on sale now at Winnacunnet, so go get some, then bring them with you to the auditorium on January 29 at 7 p.m., and watch the show. I'm telling you, it's that good.

Also, while we're on the subject of good people and good causes, I want to put in a plug for a pair of fundraisers my friend and fellow comic Eric Cheung is hosting, to benefit the victims of the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia. The shows take place on Saturday and Sunday, January 22-23 and feature some of Boston's best standup comics pitching in to help those in need, and to generate a great evening of comedy. The show takes place at Riverside Theater Works, located at 45 Fairmount Avenue, Hyde Park. Admission is \$15. For more information, call (617) 361-7024.

Of course, it's great to see so many entertainers doing their part to help out with the tsunami relief effort. In fact, several recording artists have gotten together to release a new single which supports the cause, featuring artists from the Rolling Stones, Bee Gees and Beach Boys. However, despite the fact that the song's producer is a childhood friend of his, Beach Boy Bruce Johnston declined to appear on the song because he felt it was "too lame." Now, part of me feels for Bruce here, as most benefit songs are indeed lame, and often seem to be

more self-serving than anything else. However, if I were producing a song to benefit a cause as big as tsunami relief, and one of my lifelong friends refused to help out because he thought it was "too lame" ... well, we would no longer be lifelong friends.

Well I must say I wasn't all too surprised to hear about the four CBS News employees who were fired for their part in "Rathergate" a few months ago. I'm having doubts about the validity of the reported firings, however, since I heard about them on CBS News ...

Can we all agree that Peyton Manning is quickly becoming the Patriots' own personal Wile E. Coyote? I have to say, I am starting to look forward to the day the Pats embarrass this guy at least as much as Christmas. It truly has the potential to become an annual event, I think, maybe even a holiday. I guess some of you reading could conceivably be wondering why I dislike this guy so much. Well, just take a

look at the way he handled this loss. After defeating Denver on January 9, Manning spoke in the postgame press conference about the role players play in on-field decision making, emphasizing the influence he has on what plays are run and so forth. Did you hear this guy on January 16? I guess he must have been taking the week off from making brilliant decisions, since he spoke openly about his displeasure with playcalling in yet another losing effort in Foxboro! I know it's probably early to be making such hyperbolic statements, but Peyton Manning just may be one of the phoniest "greats" in pro sports history.

You have to feel for William McRee of Shell Beach, California. He's the guy who got caught in the current during one of the massive mudslides recently, then was pulled to safety — without any pants on. I kind of like the interviews with this guy on TV: "So, you were trapped underwater, pulled downstream, and

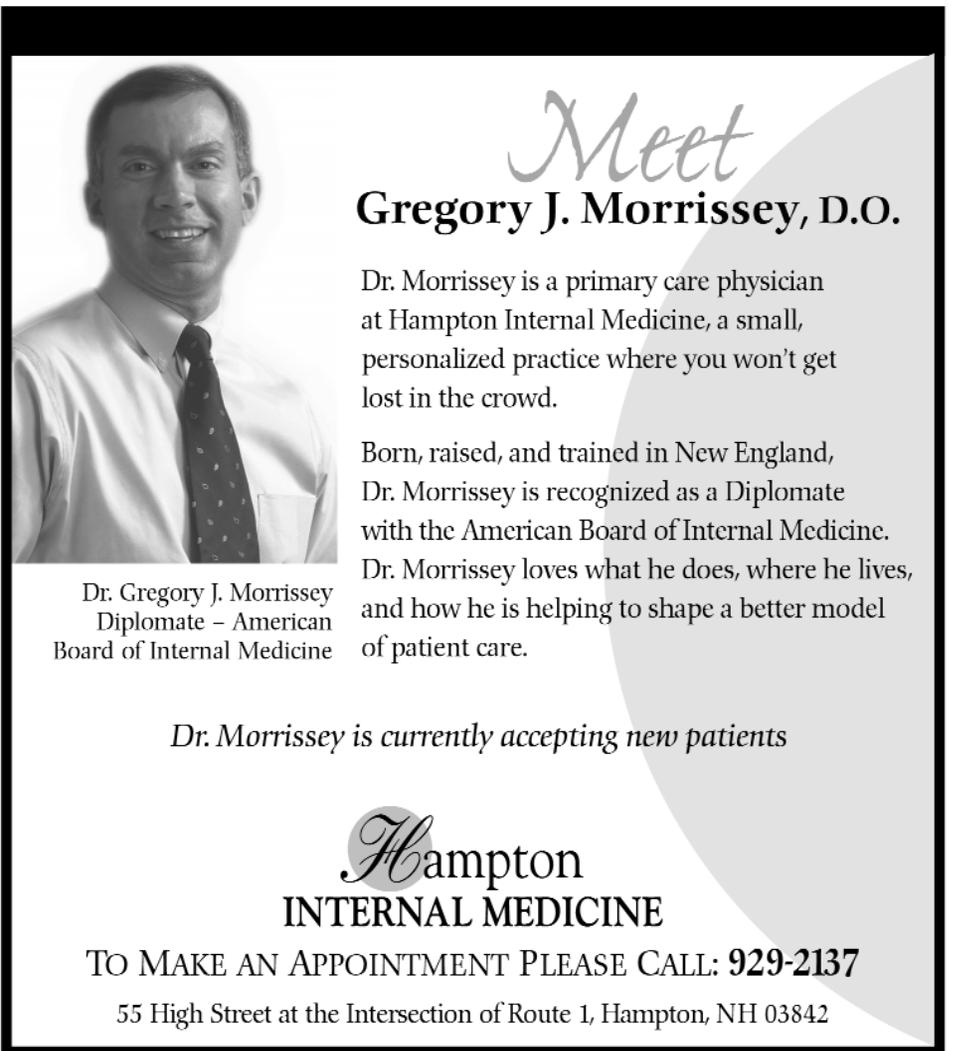
nearly faced an early and untimely death ... So WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PANTS?!! Man, that was crazy!!"

So Inauguration Bush Part III (don't forget H.W.) is this week, and I can't help but think of ways that this thing could be made better. Don't get me wrong, recording artists and poets and the like are all nice, but presidential inaugurations could be so much better if they employed certain aspects of the Costanza family's favorite holiday, Festivus. Can't you picture it? Rumsfeld and Cheney facing off in the Feats of Strength? And the Airing of the Grievances? Wow! That might take a week all by itself!

(If you don't watch Seinfeld, you shouldn't have gotten that last joke.)

Hampton needs a Pretzel Time. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

Jon Rineman is a Winnacunnet graduate and a senior at Emerson College. His e-mail address is Jon\_Rineman@emerson.edu.



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